

**STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT**

# **Basham Press Release**

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## **Basham Welcomes New Push on 'Deadbeat Boss' Legislation**

LANSING- State Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) stated today that he will welcome a new effort by the United Food and Commercial Workers to push for the adoption of Senate Bill 734. Dubbed the 'deadbeat boss' bill, SB 734 requires corporations with more than 10,000 workers to either provide affordable insurance to their employees or reimburse the state for Medicaid related expenses.

"Our Medicaid system was never meant to be a free health care program for corporations who want to maximize profits by denying health care to their workers," said Sen. Basham. "Taxpayers have every right to feel outraged that they are being forced to subsidize some of the most highly profitable companies in the world."

Basham's comments were in response to the announcement Thursday by Michigan's United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 876 that it will be spearheading a nationwide effort dubbed 'Wake Up Wal-Mart' to encourage more states to pass fair share laws like the one recently passed in Maryland. While Basham welcomes the support, he was also quick to point out that the issue is bigger than just Wal-Mart.

"We have at least four large corporations in Michigan that refuse to take responsibility for the costs associated with providing health care to their workers," said Sen. Basham. "With an already-strained state budget, the taxpayers of Michigan can no longer be expected to pick up the tab on what is just a cost of doing business."

According to statistics provided by the Department of Human Services, just one large Michigan employer, with over 34,000 employees, has more than 15 percent of its workforce on Medicaid while a second employer has more than 17 percent of its workers enrolled. Of the eighteen corporations in Michigan with 10,000 or more employees, only four have percentages of employees on Medicaid in the double digits.

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Senate Bill 734, authored by Sen. Basham, requires large, highly profitable corporations to invest at least 8% of its payroll into health care coverage for its employees. Employers who refuse will be required to reimburse the state for the difference. The revenues will be put into a newly created "Fair Share Health Care Fund" to be used to reimburse taxpayers for Medicaid related expenses.

To learn more about this subject, please visit: [www.deadbeatbosses.com](http://www.deadbeatbosses.com)

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